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ARMY MEDICAL LIBRARY

NEWS

VOL. IV, NO. 5 MARCH 1949

ISSUED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

HONORARY CONSULTANTS

Dr. Chauncey D. Leake, President of the Association of Honorary Consultants, visited the Library on 9 February. He discussed with the Director the activities of the Committee on Indexing and the affairs of the Association of Honorary Consultants to the Army Medical Library.

The Williams and Wilkins Company has announced that Dr. Morris Fishbein has accepted the American Editorship for *Excerpta Medica.*

Dr. Vernon D. Tate paid the Library a visit on 16 February to discuss recent developments in the field of microfilm. Dr. Tate has assumed the editorship of a new journal, *American Documentation,* the first number of which is scheduled for publication this spring.

CLASSIFICATION

The Library has been receiving a number of comments on the preliminary edition of its Classification, publication of which was announced in last month's *News.* Attention is again invited to the statement in the Foreword to the Classification that the preliminary edition has not been accepted as the Army Medical Library Classification and that study, trial, and revision will be necessary before any definitive edition is published.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

During a recent visit to Washington, Dr. Jacob Zuckermann of UNESCO commented on the successful exchange relations which have been developed between his office and the Medical Library Association. Dr. Zuckermann suggests that the MLA plan be considered a pilot experiment by the national book centers. The MLA contribution has been very helpful to UNESCO's library rehabilitation program.

DARNALL EXHIBIT

Carl Rogers Darnall (1867-1941), whose bacteriological and chemical investigations and ingenious mechanical invention made modern water purification possible, is the subject of a seventh exhibit in the series Famous Men of Army Medicine.

Millions of lives have been and will be saved by rendering water potable, the method which Brigadier General (then Major) Carl R. Darnall, of the Army Medical Department, originated in 1910—which method has since been adopted throughout the world. Safe drinking water is now a commonplace commodity. It is so universally obtainable that few recognize the tremendous significance of modern water purification in relation to morbidity and mortality.

The World War II application of Darnall's method of water purification, both in the Pacific and the European Theaters of Operations, forms the pictorial part of the exhibit.

General Darnall was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his great ability in administering the activities pertaining to medical supply during World War I.

STAFF ASSOCIATION ADOPTION

The Staff Association of the Library, through the Foster Parents' Plan for War Children, Inc., has adopted Herman Barendregt, who was born 25 June 1940. "Henny," as he is affectionately called, is a very blond, thin, lanky Dutch boy who was born into a world at war when the Netherlands was occupied by the Nazis. His father died from a gunshot wound by a German patrol in "No-Man's Land" while searching for food during the hunger period.

The family, consisting of the widowed mother, three boys and one girl, lives in a two-room house, immaculately kept but very poor and bare. Fuel is still scarce in postwar Holland and the Plan authorities tell us everything is needed in the household.

NEW JOURNAL

Dr. Salvador Zubiran, of Calle del Dr. Jimenez Number 261, Mexico, D. F., Mexico, has forwarded a copy of Volume I, Number 1 of a new journal *Revista de Investigación Clínica,* October 1948. Dr. Zubiran is particularly anxious to exchange subscriptions to his

publication with other journals. The *Revista* is a quarterly and is the official publication of the Hospital de Enfermedades de la Nutrición, Mexico City.

ACQUISITION NOTES

The sale of Victor Robinson's library at auction on January 26-27 was an interesting event in the medical book trade, because the library comprised about five thousand volumes of standard reference works, biographies and histories, and some interesting rarities.

The sale was attended by all of the specialist dealers in medical books and competition was stiff for such items as John Snow, *On Chloroform* . . . (London, 1858), and the *Index Medicus* complete from 1879 through 1945. This latter was the first complete set ever to be auctioned in America, and the price realized ($950) is likely to determine the price of any future sets which come up for sale.

The Library was represented at the sale and acquired a number of interesting works including the rare first edition of Krafft-Ebing, *Psychopathia Sexualis* (Stuttgart, 1886), and a fine mezzotint portrait of Sir Astley Cooper. Also of interest to the Library was the sale of Series I and II of the *Index-Catalogue* in poor condition for $210.

COMPLETION OF INDEX-CATALOGUE SETS

Distribution of the five volumes of the *Index-Catalogue* published during the war years has been completed except for some dozen libraries in Germany, mostly in the Russian zone, and a few other libraries whose condition has not yet been reported. The completion of sets includes also the Japanese libraries, information on the state of whose copies was received from SCAP.

Remarkably few sets of the *Index-Catalogues* were destroyed completely. Those in the Philippine Islands, Warszawa, Torino, Berlin (Institut für Geschichte der Medizin und der Naturwissenschaften), Karlsruhe, Kiel, Münster, and München (Universitäts-Bibliothek) were lost entirely, while Amsterdam, Freiburg im Breisgau, and other libraries reported partial losses.

While information was being collected primarily on war damage, particular inquiry was also made about actual holdings of the *Index-Catalogue* in each foreign country as a check on the Army Medical Library's records of distribution.

NEWS FROM CLEVELAND

A recent letter from Dr. J. P. Bantug, written to request photoprints of some of the History of Medicine Division's rare books, was postmarked Madrid, Spain, and stated that he had just been elected to membership in the "Real Academia Nacional de Medicina." Dr. Bantug is a member of the Philippine Bureau of Health and of the Faculty of the University of Sto. Tomás, Manila, P. I. He spent considerable time at the History of Medicine Division when he was in Cleveland a year ago. Since then, he has been doing research in Europe.

Dr. Kaj Kalbak, Director of the State Streptococcal and Serology Laboratory of Copenhagen, Denmark, visited Cleveland last month. Dr. Kalbak is an internationally known authority on rheumatic diseases and is in this country as a visiting professor in bacteriology at Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore. He was "very much impressed" with American medicine, especially since the war set Danish medicine back ten years. When all of Denmark went into the underground, very little new medical information seeped in from Central Europe, although the Allies dropped a few journals by airplane. Dr. Kalbak's visit to this country is a part of the program set up by the Danish medical profession in an effort to catch up with English and American medicine.

Another recent visitor to the History of Medicine Division was Mr. Lynn Thorndike, historian, author, and Professor of History at Columbia University.

GOETHE BICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT

The Library of Congress proposes to honor Johann Wolfgang von Goethe on the occasion of the two hundredth anniversary of his birth [28 August 1749] by an exhibit showing all the facets of this universal personality. The Army Medical Library has been requested to cooperate by supplying material on Goethe's contribution to medical progress. Dr. David Baumgardt, formerly Professor of Philosophy in Berlin and now a Consultant in Philosophy at the Library of Congress, visited the Reference Division to discuss the plans and preparations for the exhibit and the Army Medical Library's participation.